

New Grant Program Helps Cover Underground Utility Connection Costs For Qualifying Households

On August 10, 2010, the Newport Beach City Council authorized a grant program to help city residents pay the connection costs related to current and future underground utility assessment district projects in the city.

The new Utility Connection Grant Program will provide grants of up to \$5,000 to qualifying homeowners within an approved utility assessment district to help cover their costs associated with connecting to the newly undergrounded utilities.

An underground utility assessment district is a special district formed at the request of local property owners for the purpose of undergrounding utilities in the public right-of-way. A key component of undergrounding projects involves undergrounding and connecting the service wires and equipment that are on a homeowner's private property. The homeowner must retain and pay a contractor directly for this portion of the project, known as "private conversion", and the costs for this can range from \$1,500 to \$5,000 per home depending on the property and the extent of work needed.

The Utility Connection Grant Program will be funded by Community Development Block Grant funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Please see the table on page two for the household income limits.

In addition to the income qualifications, residents must own and be full-time residents of a single-family dwelling, duplex (primary unit only), or a manufactured home within a Newport Beach utility assessment district. Grants will be issued to qualified applicants on a first-come, first-served basis while funds are available, or through June 30, 2011.

Please contact Katie Bowden, Economic Development Coordinator, at (949) 644-3230 or kbowden@newportbeachca.gov for more information.

Household Income Qualifications

To qualify for the grant, a household income may not exceed the limits outlined below.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	INCOME LIMITS <i>May not exceed 50% of Area Median Income*</i>
1	\$32,550
2	\$37,200
3	\$41,850
4	\$46,450
5	\$50,200
6	\$53,900
7	\$57,600
8	\$61,350

**Based on 2010 Median Family Income for Orange County of \$87,200*